

DATE: JUL 2001

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 185-74.Y

2. //MEXICO: LUCIO CABANAS, MEXICO'S PREMIER RURAL GUERRILLA CHIEFTAIN, WAS KILLED IN A BATTLE WITH ARMY TROOPS ON DECEMBER 2. SOME 20 OF CABANAS' BAND ALSO WERE REPORTED AS KILLED IN THE CLASH.//Y

//CABANAS HAD ELUDED AUTHORITIES FOR YEARS, BUT THE ARMY BEGAN TO CLOSE IN AFTER HE KIDNAPED A WEALTHY SENATOR LAST MAY. THE SENATOR WAS FREED DURING A GUNBATTLE IN SEPTEMBER.//Y

//CABANAS' DEATH WILL BE A SEVERE BLOW TO HIS "PARTY OF THE POOR," BUT THE MOUNTAINS OF MEXICO'S SOUTHERN GUERRERO STATE ARE A TRADITIONAL SPAWNING GROUND OF BANDITS AND GUERRILLAS THAT MAY PRODUCE NEW LEADERS TO TAKE UP THE CAUSE.

DO/DDO

SDO

DATE: DECEMBER 3, 1974